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Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 67, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

~~Described is This invention provides~~ a method for decreasing the amount of mSREBP in a cell characterized by an elevated level of mSREBP, comprising contacting the wherein the cell is contacted with an agent that specifically inhibits de novo synthesis of ceramide in the cell, thereby decreasing the amount of mSREBP in the cell. ~~Also described are~~ This invention further provides related methods and articles of manufacture.